PM J-AIT ITV Operations and Training Newsletter

October 2004

pmJ-AIT
PRODUCT MANAGER
JOINT-AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION TECHNOLOGY

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Transportation School Integrates RFID Technology into Training

The US Army Transportation School at Fort Eustis, VA, is taking a new and innovative approach to training Officers and Enlisted Soldiers in the use of the Movement Tracking System (MTS) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) for In-Transit Visibility (ITV). The Transportation School has established a state-of-the-art Integrated Technologies Lab to instruct US Army soldiers as well as Joint and Coalition students with hands-on MTS training, ITV/RFID technologies, and ITV data analysis.

Project approval was granted in May 2004, and after substantial engineering and infrastructure work, initial operating capability at the facility was implemented on schedule in August 2004. Full operating capability and acceptance testing was achieved in mid-August and students were training on the system later the same day.

The classroom offers hands-on training on live MTS V2 mobile units which are fitted in High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) mounts at each of the 12 workstations in the classroom. These MTS units are then dismounted and fitted into trucks for use in the field exercise. An MTS control station is fitted in the classroom for use by instructors and students, which serves as the Tactical Operation Center (TOC) during field exercises. In addition to MTS, each of the 12 workstations consists of a laptop computer configured to be used for RFID and Worldwide Port System (WPS) training. The classroom delivers ITV training with Savi Radio Frequency (RF) tags, fixed, mobile and handheld interrogators, docking stations, and printers. This equipment is also dismounted from the workstations and taken into the field during training exercises. The key significance of the Integrated Technologies Lab is not the individual technologies it supports, but the overall effect leveraged from all the technologies together in one facility supported by an infrastructure allowing simulation and experimentation. The result is combined distribution management with total visibility. We are looking forward to the anticipated fielding of RFID-enabled MTS in the summer of 2005 which is being tested now.

MAJ John Burgess, Course Manager, looks on as 2LT Brad Hamlett, 2LT Jared Hill and 2LT Wallace Johnson learn about MTS and RFID.

Check out the PM J-AIT website at:

http://www.eis.army.mil/AIT to view the latest and greatest PM J-AIT hardware contract(s) for AIT and RFID equipment.

Useful Websites:

ITV Server Guide 2004 and AIT/RFID Operations Guide 2004:

http://www.cascom.army.mil/Automation/ITV/guidebooks/index.htm

TIPS Write and Read Operations Tutorial:

https://highland.rfitv.army.mil/TT/

ITV Servers:

CONUS: https://highland.rfitv.army.mil

USAREUR: https://itv.aelog.army.mil

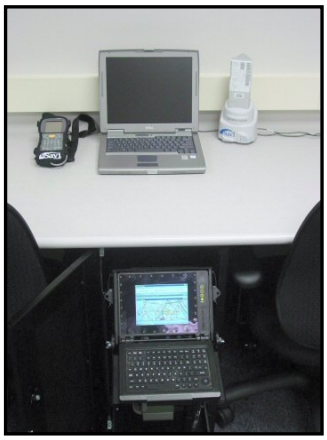
Korea: https://usfkitv.korea.army.mil

CENTCOM: https://cenitv1.arifjan.arcent.army.mil

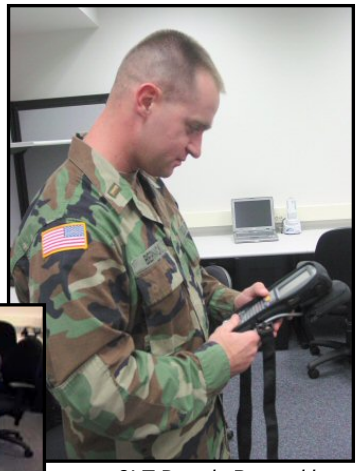
Training: https://trainer.rfitv.army.mil

Before

After



2LT Tommy Quarles and 2LT Dennis Bernacki learn about logging on to the ITV training server and how to query the ITV system for in-transit data.



2LT Dennis Bernacki operates Handheld 8146 Pocket PC.

2LT Wallace Johnson and 2LT Corinthia Romain check out the capabilities of MTS.

Exercise Bull Run

After the classroom training portion is completed, students apply what they have learned under tactical field conditions in a distribution based field exercise called Exercise Bull Run. This exercise simulates the use of RFID and MTS equipment exactly as it would be used in a deployment or sustainment operation scenario.

Exercise Bull Run is the deployment component exercise of the Transportation Officer Basic Course (TOBC) and it consists of three phases:

- Unit deployment which includes deployment by sea, rail, and Arrival/Departure Airfield Control Group (A/DACG) operations and includes the use of RFID tags and Military Shipping Labels (MSLs).

- Deployment (Reception and Staging) which is comprised of port operation, Logistics-Over-the-Shore (LOTS) operation, Central Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP), and Lt/Med Truck Platoon and includes the use of ITV, MTS, and Railhead.

- Deployment (Onward Movement and Integration) is comprised of three events which include: movement control, distribution management, and unit movement planning MAPEX.

Exercise Bull Run simulates deployment from CONUS to the Caspian Sea region with students initially carrying out the role of a Unit Movement Officer deploying their units by sea, rail, and air.

SGT James Wright demonstrates MTS capabilities.

After arrival in the Theater of Operations, the students then employ as a Cargo Transfer Company (CTC) to outload vehicles, containers, and supplies from the landship, the USS Never Sail, at the Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD).

Interrogators date stamp last known location of equipment.

RFID tags provide inside-the-box visibility for onward movement.

The students then move the cargo to a Central Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP) or staging area via road and rail assets.

In addition, the exercise scenario calls for ammunition to be brought in via a LOTS operation initializing Landing Craft Mechanical (LCM) boats, also known as “Mike” boats.

Central to the entire exercise is an infrastructure of fixed RF interrogators present around Fort Eustis, which is supplemented at key nodes with handheld RF interrogators. At each of these sites, students make their own judgment calls based on the training they have received and the ITV technologies they have present for the staging, onward movement, and retrograde of RF tagged cargo. In the school exercise, as in the real world, inside-the-box visibility is critical for making these decisions.

Access to the ITV training server is used to illustrate to the students the movement of shipments through the exercise and pre-built scenarios allow them to use the server to locate specific shipments. Some cargo is intentionally left untagged to simulate the real world problems of "frustrated" cargo. Throughout the exercise, command and control is accomplished using MTS and SINCGARS radios.

CPT Matthew Knorr, a T-school instructor, gives MAJ John Burgess an update on the classes' performance.

Major John Burgess reports that new instructors returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are incorporating lessons learned into the training, and the TOBC students are being exposed to many situations that will mirror the real world environment in which they will soon be working.

Major Burgess, a British Exchange Officer, is the OES Course Manager. If you would like more information on this course and how they use MTS or RFID technologies in their training, contact him at john.burgess@eustis.army.mil .

"We've Come a Long Way!"

The Department of the Army AIT Coordinating Group held a workshop on 14 October 2004 at Fort Lee, VA to bring everyone up to speed on AIT technologies and related matters. Meeting participants were briefed on RFID integration into Standard Army Ammunition System-Modernization (SAAS-MOD), Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS), Battle Command Sustainment Support System (BCS3), MTS, and Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movements System (TC-AIMS II). Savi Technology demonstrated the Smart Chain Mobile Manager 6.0 and the Sentinel ST-646 tag which is the latest innovation for securing and monitoring container integrity acting as a security device. Future workshops are expected to be planned to discuss specific AIT/RFID functional subjects.

LTC Rowley, PM J-AIT, welcomes meeting participants.

Jon Quinn discusses MTS.

Would You Believe?

During the USAF PREPO AIT operation at the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, AFSILC (tag writing application), recorded its Weapons Build data on Tag ID 1000000 (that's right, 1 million!).

Congratulations to Harry Meisell

Mr. Harry Meisell, Office of the PM J-AIT, recently received an award from the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the International Society of Logistics (SOLE) for his work in advancing Automatic Identification Technology in logistics. Mr. Meisell was cited for his valuable contributions toward the advancement of the goals and objectives of the logistics profession, and he was recognized for his role in developing and expanding the RF-ITV capabilities to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The award was presented at the Chapter's annual awards program on 27 October 2004 by Mr. John Phillips, Vice President of Home Depot and former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Logistics), guest speaker for the ceremony.

Harry Meisell (right) receives Logistics Award

RFID Global Status Reports

Keep track of your interrogator status with the daily RFID Global Status Reports. The RFID Global Status Reports are issued daily via E-mail by PM J-AIT. The report is provided in detail and summary formats, for your information and review. At the date and time the reports are generated, non-operational sites are reflected in the last column of the RFID Global Status report.

If you are not currently on the distribution list to receive these reports and would like to be, please contact PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil .

WANTED...RFID tags

For more information on the DoD RFID tag return guidance and addresses, you can go to the DoD Logistics AIT Office website at:

http://www.dodait.com/refdoc/RF_TAG_RETURN_ADDRESS.pdf

OR

http://www.dodait.com/refdoc/RF_TAG_RETURN_ADDRESS.doc

In the Iraqi Zone (IZ), return all RFID tags to:

RF TAGS for RETROGRADE
TDC, KUWAIT

The point of contact is LTC Johnson, DSN 318-438-8246

Suggestions:

- Set up a tag collection point.
- Once the shipment has reached its designation, ***invert the battery before you place it in collection box***. This will deactivate the tag so it will not continue to be read uploaded to the ITV server.
- Send the magnetic mounts back too.

If this report has been forwarded to you and you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send your request via E-mail to PM J-AIT (Jerry Rodgers) at jerry.d.rodgers@us.army.mil.